Richardson retires after 20 years in Admissions Office

By Charles P. Brown

Director of Admissions Peter H. Richardson '48 said yesterday he will accept early retirement effective Sept. 1, 1984. He has been director of admissions since 1967.

"I've worked here for twenty years, and I've loved every minute of it," Richardson said. "I want to do something different, and I don't know what I want to do next. I'll have time to think about what I'll do next.

Richardson said remaining until Sept. I will allow him to complete the plans for the admissions process for the Class of 1989 and to address the Class of 1988 at the Freshman Picnic.

Richardson notified Institute Vice President Constantine B. Simonides of his intention to retire on April 3, 1984, he said, and announced his decision to the admissions office staff last week.

Simonides said that plans are being developed for an advisory committee to exist in the search for a new admissions director.

Disposal problem is a threat to MIT research

By Kevin D. Hunt

A pending crisis in low-level radioactive waste disposal threatens research funding and employment in MIT laboratories, according to Francis X. Masse, radiation protection officer at MIT.

"The 1984 congressional resolution allows the three existing disposal sites in South Carolina, Washington, and Nevada to begin disposing of waste from other states in 1986. "It will take a minimum of five years to build a disposal site in Massachusetts," Masse said. "Yet here we are in 1984 still debating the issue." A regional compact that would involve retaining waste at the site among the New England states is another possibility for waste disposal.

"Without a solution, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will most likely have to limit our license and restrict research to the use of only short-lived radioactive materials," Masse said.

MIT generates one truckload of waste a year, most of it from research laboratories. A small part comes from the MIT reactor and the linear accelerator in Middletown, Masse said. These operations could be shut down or severely restricted by the unavailable disposal site.

"The only way we can forecast continued operation between the 1986 deadline and the time when a new disposal facility will be ready is through some interim storage or extended grace period for the ultimate disposal of the waste," Masse said.

Up to $75 million in MIT research funding could be eliminated by restricting radioactive material production.

The Jan. 20 issue of Science called the predication "an extreme example of the political obstacles involved in the radioactive waste issue."

A special legislative session to expedite the negotiation of a low-level waste commission represent Massachusetts' attempts to deal with the problem. "Finally, the state has to determine whether to bury it, to burn it," Masse said.

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